

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 680

By Goins

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the Morristown Theatre Guild during its eightieth season.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly pause in its deliberations to honor and recognize those artistic institutions that have influenced the citizens of our great State; and

WHEREAS, 2014 marks the advent of the eightieth season for the Morristown Theatre Guild, Tennessee's longest running community theatre organization; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Guild, to celebrate the arts, culture, and theatrical education, has enriched the city of Morristown, the state of Tennessee, and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Morristown Theatre Guild was formed in 1934, and its first production, a comedic play entitled *Pigs*, was performed in the homes of local residents; each season saw most of their work performed in the large homes of Morristown; and

WHEREAS, the travels of the Guild nurtured local talents and spread a devotion to the theatre arts, one household at a time. In 1956, the Guild purchased the former Lutheran Church building, which became its first permanent theatrical venue and has served as a cultural hub in the community ever since; and

WHEREAS, in the true spirit of Tennessee, volunteers have made the Morristown Theatre Guild a success story through the talents of volunteer actors, directors, designers, creators, and stagecraft technicians, with the guidance of volunteer board members, salesmen, and marketers, all working together to stage classics of the American theatre; and

WHEREAS, volunteers have continued the Morristown Theatre Guild tradition through eighty seasons of productions; and

WHEREAS, the Guild has produced more than 325 shows, 750 performances, and partnered with many other local organizations and groups in the Lakeway Region to produce shows; and

WHEREAS, Guild performers have had, and continue to have, professional careers across the country, including in Broadway productions, daytime and primetime television, Hollywood and independent films, theatre education programs in middle schools, high schools, and colleges, and with entertainment companies ranging from Dollywood to Disney; and

WHEREAS, many volunteers and artists with the Morristown Theatre Guild have gone on to create new production companies, corporate consultant companies, and new theatrical companies, not only in Tennessee but also across the nation; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 1990, the Guild presented its first original plays written by Guild members Joe Powell and David Horton based on works of classic literature; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the Guild partnered with the Newport Theatre Guild to present the World Premiere of the musical, *Summer Magic*, an original adaptation of the classic Disney movie, written by local theatre teacher and playwright, Gerald Maloy, with the assistance of legendary Disney songwriter, Richard Sherman, and it is now being developed by Disney for a Broadway premiere; and

WHEREAS, also in 2012, the Morristown Theatre Guild began the process of rebuilding their playhouse as part of a \$500,000 program to modernize the facility to better serve the community and enhance the productions of the Guild with plans to reopen the playhouse in 2015; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the Morristown Theatre Guild for their eighty seasons of service to the community, as they provide entertainment, education, and a vivacity for the performing arts that has influenced the community of Morristown, the state of Tennessee, and the nation as a whole.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.